

Graphical Device for Comprehensive Viewing and Input of Variable Data Via a Browser-Based Display

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A graphical input device, preferably in a browser-based display, resembles a pull-down menu, with a displayed data entry field. The set of possible entries to be displayed along with the graphical input device varies depending on the user. The minimum display width needed for full-width display of the entries is evaluated by scripting and the actual display of the set is generated accordingly. The drop-down list and its listed entries may be wider than the data entry field. The user can thus view and select customized possible entries that cannot fit within the displayed data entry field. According to another aspect of the preferred embodiment of the invention, when the user is making selections from the drop-down list, multiple keyboard entries can be used to cause rapid scrolling to entries that match not only the first character entered, but also to entries whose first n characters match n characters entered while viewing the list. For hierarchically structured and itemized entry lists, matching is preferably performed first to the right of at least one delimiter. The various novel aspects of the invention are implemented using scripting embedded within HTML code so that they are available to users who are browsing web content.